

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /032 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN:CEJ

APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

NEA/P:MVANORDER

S/PRS:RFUNSETH (INFO)

PM/SAS:DKEENE (INFO)

----- 084679

P 132333Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: DELIVERY OF M-60 TANKS

1. FEB 13 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON SECRETARY OF ARMY HOFFMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING OF FEB 12 REPORTS THAT US WILL WITHHOLD ANY MAJOR TANK DELIVERIES TO OTHER COUNTRIES FOR ABOUT 18 MONTHS WHILE INCREASED PRODUCTION REDUCES AN ARMY SHORTAGE. HOFFMAN IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT THE WHITE HOUSE AND TOP PENTAGON OFFICIALS HAVE MADE A COMMITMENT THAT NO TANKS FOR OTHER NATIONS WILL BE TAKEN FROM CURRENT LIMITED PRODUCTION OR THE ARMY'S PRESENT DEPLETED STOCKS EXCEPT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.

2. IN EVENT STORY IS RAISED BY SAG, EMBASSY MAY WISH DRAW ON FOLLOWING EXCERPTS OF SECRETARY HOFFMAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE AS RELATES TO M-60 TANK ISSUE. EMBASSY WILL NOTE THAT PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE FOR EARLY DELIVERY OF M-60 TANKS TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR TRAINING PURPOSES.

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3. QTE: QUESTION: YOU REPORTED IN YOUR POSTURE STATEMENT THAT WE ONLY HAD 39 PERCENT OF THE TANKS WE NEEDED AND 51 PERCENT OF ALL MILITARY EQUIPMENT. THEN, THIS WEEK WE HEAR THAT YOU ARE GOING TO SELL M-60 TANKS TO SAUDI ARABIA AND DRAGON MISSILES WHICH ARE THE BRAND NEW MISSILES. HOW DO

YOU RESOLVE THESE THINGS?

ANSWER: THE SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA ARE CONTEMPLATED TO OCCUR SOMETIME AFTER THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR. THEY WILL COME AT A TIME WHEN WE HAVE, BASED ON OUR PRIORITIES FOR BOLSTERING OUR INVENTORIES, AND THE PRODUCTION INCREASE THAT I TALKED ABOUT EARLIER AS THAT GOES UP AND GOES ABOVE 100 TOWARD 120, THERE WILL BE SOME PRODUCTION THAT WILL ALLOW US TO ACCOMMODATE WHAT WE CONSIDER A PRIORITY REQUIREMENT.

THE NUMBER OF TANKS INVOLVED IN THE SAUDI PURCHASE IS A NUMBER DESIGNED TO GET THEM STARTED WITH A TRAINING PROGRAM. IT IS A MINIMAL NUMBER AND IT FITS IN WITH OUR PLANS AS WE GO ALONG TO MAKE SURE WE KEEP BUILDING UP YEARLY. OF COURSE, WE ARE CONSTRAINED BY THE AMOUNT THAT WE CAN PURCHASE IN ANY GIVEN YEAR BUT THE WAY THE PROGRAM GOES, I THINK THE SALE TO THE SAUDIS' RECOGNIZES THE NECESSITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO OTHER NATIONAL POLICY OBJECTIVES OF WHICH ASSISTANCE IN EQUIPPING THE ARMED FORCES OF OUR ALLIES IS CERTAINLY A SIZEABLE ONE.

QUESTION: INAUDIBLE. (ASSUME QUESTION WAS HOW MANY TANKS INVOLVED.)

ANSWER: I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE NUMBER IS.

QUESTION: INAUDIBLE. (ASSUME QUESTION IS HOW MANY TANKS FOR EARLY DELIVERY.)

ANSWER: IT'S AT OR AROUND 25 TANKS.

QUESTION: ARE YOU OPPOSED TO TAKING TANKS OUT OF THE INVENTORY?

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ANSWER: YES, SIR, AND WE HAVE HAD CONTINUED TO US, TO SECRETARY RUMSFELD, THE PRESIDENTIAL DECISION AND THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE'S OWN COMMITMENT TO US THAT OUR STOCKS WILL NOT BE TAKEN FOR FMS SALES AND THAT THE PRESENTLY SCHEDULE PRODUCTION WILL NOT BE INVADDED.

QUESTION: DO YOUR COMMENTS BEFORE MEAN THAT THERE WILL

BE NO DELIVERY OF AMERICAN TANKS, ANY AMERICAN TANKS TO  
FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS?

ANSWER: DEPENDING ON THE PRODUCTION SCHEDULE, AS TO  
WHICH I THINK I'M CORRECT, IT WOULD BE A YEAR AND A HALF.

QUESTION: OTHER THAN A HANDFUL OF TRAINING ITEMS,  
PERHAPS.

ANSWER: OTHER THAN TRAINING ITEMS OR THINGS, SMALL  
QUANTITIES THAT MAY BE ON ORDER BY NOW. END QTE. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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